Application No. 09/748,713
Amendment dated September 22, 2003
Reply to Office action dated March 21, 2003

REMARKS

Claim 8 is amended to define patentable subject matter over the prior art of record. Claims 17-20 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 8-16 remain, with no claim previously allowed.

Claims 8-16 were again rejected as unpatentable over *Reinwald* (4,255,148). The applicant respectfully traverses that rejection as possibly applied to Claim 8 as currently amended.

The present applicant has invented and is here claiming apparatus to remove a stain from a small portion of an article of fabric or clothing. The advantages of that approach, compared with cleaning the entire piece of fabric, are apparent from the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 of the specification.

Amended Claim 8 is directed to a portable device for the foregoing purpose. That claim now defines a portable device comprising at least one chamber for containing a cleaning solution and having an outlet covering only a localized area of the soiled fabric. Claim 8 further comprises a second element for application to the side of the fabric opposite to the one chamber. This second element is either a second chamber in fluid communication with the one chamber through the localized area of the fabric, or an absorbent medium configured for application to the localized area on the opposite side. The cleaning solution thus is transferred from the one chamber to the second element through the localized area of the fabric.

Reinwald neither teaches nor suggests a portable device for treating soiled fabric, as now claimed. That reference discloses a machine washing process and apparatus using either a home laundry washing machine (column 11, lines 50-51) or another form of machine washer such as a tub washing machine (column 11, lines 63-66). *Reinwald* thus clearly is concerned only with a method for machine washing and cleaning of fabrics and garments made from textiles.
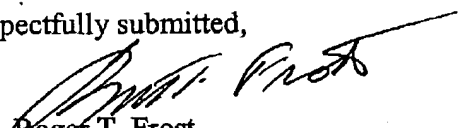
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Nothing in *Reinwald* discloses or suggests any apparatus capable of applying a cleaning solution only to a localized area of a fabric. Furthermore, nothing in that reference even hints at the desirability of any such apparatus. Accordingly, that reference fails to disclose or suggest, to one of ordinary skill, a portable device for treating soiled fabric and including the structural and functional limitations now required by amended Claim 8. For that reason, Claim 8 and the dependent claims are patentable over *Reinwald*.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the applicant solicits a notice to that affect.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket: 44148/251210 (12980-0101)

The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office official Mailroom stamp affixed hereto, acknowledges receipt of the items listed below:

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Filing Date: December 21, 2000
Applicant: Clarence C. LEE
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